

Passed out by:

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EXHIBIT 8
DATE 3/21/2011
HB SB 272

SB 272

Proof that Montana psychologists are not required to have significant training in the fundamentals of medicine; specifically biochemistry, anatomy, and physiology.

Rule: 24.189.604

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Rule Title: MINIMUM STANDARDS

Department: LABOR AND INDUSTRY, DEPARTMENT OF



Chapter: BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

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Subchapter: Licensure

Latest version of the adopted rule presented in Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM):

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24.189.604 MINIMUM STANDARDS

(1) A doctorate degree qualifies under 37-17-302 (3)(c), MCA, if it is obtained from a psychology program which meets the following criteria:

(a) Training in professional psychology is doctoral training offered in a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

(b) The program, wherever it may be administratively housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a psychology program. Such a program must specify in pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate and train professional psychologists.

(c) The psychology program must stand as a recognizable, coherent organizational entity within the institution.

(d) There must be a clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines.

(e) The program must be an organized sequence of study planned by those responsible for the training program to provide an integrated education experience appropriate to the professional practice of psychology.

(f) There must be an identifiable psychology faculty and a psychologist responsible for the program.

(g) The program must have an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in that program for a degree.

(h) The program must include supervised practicum, internship, field or laboratory training appropriate to the practice of psychology.

(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], the core program shall require each student to demonstrate competence in each of the following substantive content areas. This typically will be met by including a minimum of three or more graduate semester hours (five or more graduate quarter hours) in each of these four substantive content areas:

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

(A) The training program shall include at least 60 quarter hours or 40 semester hours of formal graduate study in psychology. The achievement in each course shall have been satisfactory and the instruction shall have been provided in the regular graduate psychology program of a regionally accredited degree-granting institution. The number of university extension credits that may be credited toward the requirement for the doctoral degree shall not exceed 15 quarter hours (ten semester hours).

(B) Of the 60 quarter hours the doctoral program in psychology shall include at least 45 quarter hours (30 semester hours) of course work clearly designated on the university transcript as a graduate level psychology course, exclusive of practicum and dissertation credits and exclusive of transfer credits. The above 45 quarter-hour credits shall be taken during the period in which the applicant is matriculated in the doctoral program. The doctoral program shall include examination and grading procedures designed to evaluate the degree of mastery of the subject matter by the student.

(C) [REDACTED]. The training also must include a set of coordinated practicum, which total at least three terms (two semesters) in the practicum setting.

(D) Training programs should provide a variety of faculty (staff) role models and be relatively stable (e.g., continuity of funding and staff).

(E) A responsibility which all programs share is to convey to students values of professional ethics and scientific responsibility and integrity. This includes principles of professional ethics with regard to the use of both assessment and intervention techniques and with regard to the confidentiality of interviews and records. Ethical principles such as those pertaining to research with human subjects, extent of obligations to parents and to institutions, and the nature and consequences of the psychologist's concern for human welfare should also be conveyed to students.

History: 37-1-131, 37-17-202, 37-17-302, MCA; IMP, 37-17-302, MCA; NEW, 1988 MAR p. 570, Eff. 3/25/88; AMD, 1999 MAR p. 211, Eff. 1/29/99; TRANS, from Commerce, 2004 MAR p. 2282; AMD, 2007 MAR p. 1337, Eff. 9/7/07.

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SB 272 – Example curriculum for an online degree that would supposedly give a psychologists all the education and training they need to prescribe and monitor psychotropic medications and their potentially fatal side effects.

<http://www.rxpsychology.com/crsstudy.htm>

Course of Study

The program consists of a series of 10 courses specifically designed and developed for psychologists seeking to expand their knowledge of psychopharmacology. A sequence of core courses provides the basic science foundation and knowledge base in pathophysiology, neuroscience, and pharmacology for clinical applications. A professional issues course addresses the legal and ethical considerations and related standard of care topics. The didactic program concludes with a series of treatment courses addressing specific categories of mental disorder and the related psychopharmacological issues. These courses provide psychologists with important knowledge of the treatment of mental disorders with medication. A Clinical Practicum Elective is available for those practitioners who desire to practice the management of psychopharmacotherapy in a supervised clinical experience.

The didactic portion of the program is divided into five 15-week semesters. Two courses are completed each semester. Courses run sequentially to allow participants to focus on one topic at a time.

Course Credit

The M.S. Program in Clinical Psychopharmacology is sponsored by the Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Psychology. Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Psychology maintains responsibility for this program and its contents. Upon successful course completion, each course in the program is approved for 45 Continuing Professional Education Credits for Psychologists. In addition, passing the course results in 3 graduate credits towards the Postdoctoral Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology, a 30-credit master's degree.

Courses 1 & 2: Biological Foundations of Psychopharmacological Practice I and II (7.5 weeks each)

These courses present an integrated approach to the study of primary body systems (respiratory, cardiovascular, renal, hematologic/immunologic, gastrointestinal, endocrine, reproductive, musculoskeletal, and dermatologic) that correlates fundamental knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology of a specific body system with the clinical applications (health assessment, physical examination, laboratory assessment) pertaining to that system. Exploration of clinical medicine concepts will utilize a problem-solving approach. The goals of these two courses are to enhance the student's recognition of signs and symptoms of medical conditions requiring collaboration with and referral to other health professionals and to provide knowledge about the psychological, biological and medical correlates of disease. Medical sequelae of

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psychotropic agents and familiarity with standard medical treatment of common disease states are addressed. Each course is approved for 45 CE Credits plus 3 academic credits.

Course 3: Neuroscience (7.5 weeks)

This course focuses on the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, beginning at the cellular level. Knowledge of principles of neurochemistry, neuroendocrinology, and neuropathology will serve as a foundation for the understanding of neurotransmitter systems and their role in the etiology and treatment of mental disorders. Approved for 45 CE Credits plus 3 academic credits.

Course 4: Neuropharmacology (7.5 weeks)

This course introduces the knowledge base pertaining to pharmacology and psychopharmacology. It includes continued study of neurotransmitter systems and other factors in the psychopharmacological treatment of mental disorders, as well as an introduction to classes of psychotropic medications. Approved for 45 CE Credits plus 3 academic credits.

Course 5: Clinical Pharmacology (7.5 weeks)

This course presents major classes of drugs (excluding psychotropics) and their uses in clinical settings. It includes an examination of the social, cultural, and behavioral aspects of prescribing medications. Approved for 45 CE Credits plus 3 academic credits.

Course 6: Professional Issues and Practice Management (7.5 weeks)

This course reviews issues in prescribing from the perspective of a professional healthcare provider. Legal and ethical issues, as well as standards of care ranging from informed consent to documentation, are addressed. Interprofessional relationships and aspects of collaborative practice, as well as practice enhancement strategies such as computer-based aids, will provide learners with a solid foundation for the continued integration of psychopharmacology into their practices. Approved for 45 CE Credits plus 3 academic credits.

Courses 7-10: Treatment Issues in Psychopharmacology: A Case Study Approach (7.5 weeks each)

This treatment-focused series of sessions provides students with access to virtual clinical experiences through didactic information and case studies addressing specific categories of mental disorders. Each case addresses the following: diagnosis/differential diagnosis; etiology/biological basis of disorder; psychopharmacological treatment options, including mechanism of action, side effects, adverse reactions, polypharmacy, drug interaction, and patient education. The integration of treatment strategies as well as the empirical basis for treatments is presented. Disorders covered will include the mood disorders, psychotic disorders, anxiety disorders, cognitive disorders, substance abuse and chemical dependency, chronic pain, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, as well as others. Each course is approved for 45 CE Credits plus 3 academic credits.

The Comprehensive Exam

To verify mastery of the material, there is an on-line comprehensive exam offered upon completion of coursework. Students can opt to complete the Psychopharmacology Examination for Psychologists (PEP) instead. The latter option is particularly appropriate for individuals who

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are interested in pursuing prescriptive authority in the near future. We offer an optional face-to-face preparatory meeting to help you prepare for either exam, called the PEP Prep. Upon passing the Comprehensive Exam the student receives the degree Postdoctoral Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology. To find out more about the PEP Exam, [click here](#).

Clinical Practicum Elective

Practitioners who successfully complete the 10 didactic courses will be eligible to enroll in the Clinical Practicum. This is part of the supervised clinical experience described in the APA model curriculum leading to mastery of a series of clinical competencies. Each participant will identify, arrange with, and recommend a clinical supervising preceptor (M.D. or D.O.) to be approved by Fairleigh Dickinson University. This experience may be arranged within the student's local community. The Director of the program will assist in the identification of an appropriate preceptor if needed, but cannot guarantee a placement.

Before beginning the Clinical Practicum, we require an intensive experience in physical exams, lab findings, and medical history taking that we call the Clinical Lab. This is offered annually. [Click here](#) for photos from our August 2010 Clinical Lab in Chicago IL.

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